

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1698

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUN: CY, TU
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION: TURKEY

REF: (A) ANKARA 4867, (B) STATE 145374

1. WHILE WE PRESUME THAT DETAILED TREATMENT OF THE ETHNIC AND POLITICAL CONFLICT ON CYPRUS WILL BE RESERVED MAINLY FOR THE CYPRUS HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION, WE IN GENERAL HAVE NO SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH ANKARA'S PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE CYPRUS SECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON TURKEY. REGARDING THE LAST THREE SENTENCES OF ANKARA'S PROPOSED PARA 11, HOWEVER, WE WOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING MINOR REVISIONS:
"THE INDEPTENDENT REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS, ESTABLISHED IN 1960, BROKE DOWN IN DECEMBER 1963 WHEN MAJOR INTERCOMMUNAL FIGHTING ERUPTED. OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, SEVERAL HUNDRED TURKISH CYPRIOTS-- MOSTLY NON-COMBATANTS--WERE KILLED OR DISAPPEARED AND, FOR STRATEGIC AS WELL AS SECURITY REASONS, MOST OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY WAS WITHDRAWN INTO SMALL DEFENSIVE ENCLAVES HOUSING MANY REFUGEES AND CONTROLLING LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF THE ISLAND'S AREA. IN 1964 AND 1967, INTER-COMMUNAL TENSIONS AGAIN FLARED, LEADING TO GREEK CYPRIOT

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ATTACKS ON TURKISH CYPRIOT ENCLAVES AND BRINGING TURKEY TO THE BRINK OF INTERVENTION. U.S. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN DISSUADING TURKEY FROM INTERVENING AND EVENTUALLY LED TO THE INITIATION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WHICH AIMED TO ESTABLISH A NEW BASIS FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES. IN JULY 1974 WHEN THE GREEK JUNTA DEPOSED MAKARIOS AND INSTALLED A GOVERNMENT FAVORING

UNION WITH GREECE AND LED BY A PERSON WIDELY HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING OF MANY TURK CYPRIOTS, EFFORTS TO DISSUADE TURKEY FROM INTERVENING WERE UNSUCCESSFUL."

2. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, PARA 14 CONCLUSION THAT NONE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CONSIDERED IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S DRAFT REPORT ARE CONTINUING IS ACCURATE. WE HAVE HEARD OF NO RECENT INSTANCES OF LOOTING, RAPE, ILLEGAL DETENTION OR INHUMAN TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, AND FORCIBLE EVICTION OF GREEK CYPRIOTS FROM THE NORTH SEEMS TO HAVE ENDED IN JANUARY 1977. MONTHLY DEPARTURE RATES, WHICH BEFORE FEBRUARY AVERAGED 650-750, HAVE DRAMATICALLY DECLINED TO A MERE HANDFUL, AND IN ALL CASES THE UN HAS VERIFIED THAT THE INDIVIDUALS ARE LEAVING OF THEIR OWN ACCORD. SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES STILL LIMIT COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR THE 2000 GREEK CYPRIOTS REMAINING IN THE NORTH, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SITUATION HAS GENERALLY IMPROVED AND THAT RESTRICTIONS ARE GRADUALLY BEING REMOVED AS THE SITUATION STABILIZES.

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